

FORGOTTEN COLLECTORS

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In making a revisional study, an entomological taxonomist will usually borrow material from many sources. He hopes thus to see specimens from areas which he has not visited and to fill gaps in the reported variation and distribution.

Loans from individuals tend to consist of insects they have collected, and if data on the labels are not full enough or clear, the owners can be contacted. But loans from museums often represent the efforts of dozens or hundreds of private collectors over scores of years. In these cases an obscure label may be an enigma or a valuable key, depending on how much one knows of its source and of the activities of the collector.

Most private collections finally reach a museum, though they may be incorporated into one or even a series of other collections first. In the process they often lose their identity, and though museum curators record all obvious inclusions when a nominate collection is received, they may not be aware of the full historic import.

As time passes this condition will become worse, unless we record at least some information, and preferably as much as possible, about every collector. These reports might be put in the nearest institution which has a file on the history of entomology, but this does not of itself advertise what records are where, and the project is always at the mercy of a change in administration. It would be better to publish them, even if only as summaries of the essential data with a photograph of each person. These facts would then be available to all, and in a form as nearly permanent as possible.

The Coleopterists' Bulletin is the logical place for information about coleopterists, and I would like to draw attention here to a few of the many names not in such excellent works as M. M. Carpenter's *Bibliography of Biographies of Entomologists* (American Midland Nat., vol. 33, no. 1, pp. 1-116. 1945), E. O. Essig's *A History of Entomology* (New York, The Macmillan Co., 1931), M. H. Hatch's, *A Century of Entomology in the*

Pacific Northwest (Seattle, University of Washington Press, 1949), L. O. Howard's, A History of Applied Entomology (Smithsonian Misc. Coll., vol. 84, 1930), and H. Osborn's two volumes, Fragments of Entomological History (Columbus, Published by the author, Part I, 1937; Part II, 1946).

ANDREWS, ED. B., of Estes Park, Colorado; a lepidopterist and coleopterist. In 1936 he sent some Coleoptera for identification to the late Ralph Hopping, forest entomologist of Vernon, B. C. I was then on the latter's staff, and began to correspond and exchange beetles with Mr. Andrews. He wrote interesting and friendly letters in a most graceful script, and at Christmas sent cards showing beautiful local scenes, made from his own photographs.

He was particularly interested in Cicindelidae, Buprestidae, and Cerambycidae and sent me hundreds of water beetles in return for species of those families. Judging by the labels, he collected chiefly in near-by Rocky Mountain National Park. One of his habits may possibly lead to wrong citations for his specimens: In addition to a script locality label, he used a printed collector label which also carried his mailing address, and this was usually placed above the true locality tag. In some cases he labeled fully only the first specimen of a series and put collector labels on the rest.

Mr. Andrews died on March 24, 1942, and Mr. E. A. Sprague of Intermural Place, Estes Park, was administrator of his estate. His collection, contained in 135 cigar boxes, nearly all full, was supposedly for sale. I made two attempts to buy the aquatic beetles but could get no definite information and do not know what became of the material. The type series of *Xylotrechus robustus* R. Hopping was collected by Mr. Andrews.

FORRER, A. For years I was puzzled as to the source of specimens labeled in a typically European fashion with a narrow frame line around the printing. Examples are: "Californie MÉR. De San Diego aux frontieres de l'Arizona et du Mexique. A. Forrer," and "Marine Bonndary [sic] Lower California. A. Forrer," always undated.

According to Walther Horn and Ilse Kahle (Über entomologische Sammlungen. Part 1, p. 79, 1935), A. Forrer is, or was, an entomological dealer in St. Gallen, Switzerland, who made three trips to the Pacific Coast, Vancouver-Mexico, ca. 1880-1885.

ROBERTS, CHRISTOPHER H. The death of C. H. Roberts on September 29, 1916, at Pawling, N. Y., was recorded in the Journal of the New York Entomological Society for that month (vol. 24, p. 236), and in the minutes of the October 3 meeting (vol. 24, p. 309), with a statement in the latter case that Mr. J. D. Sherman would prepare an obituary. To the best of my knowledge this was never published. There is also a record of the death in the Proceedings of the Brooklyn Entomological Society, published in the Bulletin (vol. 12, p. 45).

Mr. Roberts was a competent student of water beetles and author of papers still in constant use. Tributes to his skill, generosity, and kindness occur more than once in the writings of Mr. J. B. Wallis, another specialist on aquatics.

SNYDER, W. E. A naturalist of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin (107 W. Maple Ave., in 1903), who published several articles on Coleoptera. He was interested also in Hymenoptera and Hemiptera, as well as in birds and mammals, and was most active at the turn of the century.

THE COLEOPTERISTS' SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The response to the announcement of the organization of the Coleopterists' Society has been encouraging. Membership in the society has increased to 159 as of May 19th. The Bulletin is mailed to 211 subscribers (members and institutions). This is considerably less than the total for the December 1949 issue, which was 250. There have been very few requests for cancellations, however, and we hope that at least 50 more former subscribers will renew and become members.

G. B. V., *Sec'y.*